The Appearance of Lord Krsna #2

Narrator: Once, the world was overburdened by unnecessary defense force of the royal order, who were posing as kings, but were actually demons.

Scene One - Kamsa's Palace

Kamsa: Generals of my armies, I have called you together to inform you of my plan to escalate out military advantage over the other states of the world. Hundreds of military phalanxes are not enough - we must have thousands! Sixty-five percent of the government's revenue will be appropriated for this purpose. We can cut back in other areas, especially religious, cultural and humanitarian pursuits. No one need fear - I will protect everyone in my kingdom. Jarasandha is my father-in-law and I have many powerful friends. I will arrest my father, Ugrasena, and then, together with my allies, I shall crush all opposition and rid the world of the so-called God-fearing princes. I alone shall rule the world and everyone shall sing my glories and bow down at my feet!

Followers: Kamsa! Kamsa! Kamsa!
(Encourage audience to applaud and cheer.)

Scene Two - The Heavenly Planets

Narrator: At that time, the whole world became perturbed and the predominating deity of this Earth, known as Bhumi, went to see Lord Brahma, the universal creator, to tell of her calamity.

Brahma: Welcome, my dear Bhumi! Why are you weeping? Please tell me the nature of your distress so that I may assist you.

Bhumi: O Brahma, I am bereft of all hope and I have come to invoke your compassion. The Earth is in a most unfortunate position. There is a decline in religious practice and a rise of irreligion. The residents of the Earth have become atheistic and Godless and the kings are unnecessarily puffed up with their military power. Guided by lust, anger, greed

and envy, these demoniac kings are propagating wholesale slaughter of humans and animals and exploiting the natural resources which I give them. Is there no way in which we can stop them?

Brahma: I am very much aggrieved to hear this news, Mother Bhumi. Let us meet with all the Planetary Controllers and proceed at once to the Ocean of Milk where the Supreme Lord, Sri Visnu resides. We are all subordinate to Him and cannot do anything without His mercy. Come.

(Celestial music as they are joined by other demigods and approach Lord Visnu, unseen out towards the audience.)

Dear Lord, You are the master of the whole universe, the Supreme God of all gods, Who provides for everyone and diminishes everyone's suffering. Please hear our prayers.

(They chant as Brahma meditates.)

Scene Three - Mathura

(Kamsa is driving the chariot of Vasudeva after the marriage of Vasudeva to his sister, Devaki.)

Devaki: What a beautiful city! My Lord, how much farther is your palace?

Vasudeva: Only a few more hours, my lovely bride. It was certainly generous of your brother, Kamsa, to drive us all the way there.

Voice: Kamsa!

(Kamsa looks about for the voice, fearfully)

Kamsa, you are such a fool! You are happily driving the chariot of your sister and your new brother-in-law, but you do not know that the eighth child of this sister will be the death of you!!!

(All are transfixed. Suddenly, Kamsa grabs Devaki.)

Kamsa: No!!!

Voice: The death of you!!

Kamsa: No!!!

Vasudeva: The death of you!!

Kamsa: NO, **(drawing his sword)** it shall not be!!
(Kamsa grabs Devaki by the hair.)

Vasudeva: Wait! My dear brother-in-law, the most famous prince of the Bhoja Dynasty, stay your hand! How can you be so overcome with fear that you would kill a woman, and your own sister, at that, even on the auspicious occasion of her marriage!??

Kamsa: Don't try to flatter mer - get out of my way!

Vasudeva: Are you so afraid of death? Death is already with you from birth. From the day you were born, you began to die. Final death is inevitable. It may come today or in a hundred years, but no one can avoid it. Why then should you be so afraid of death?

Kamsa: I am not afraid of anything but I will do as I please! Get away from me, Vasudeva!

Vasudeva: Think of your reputation. How will it look if you allow your passions to seduce you into committing this abominable act? Think about how your reputation will suffer.

Kamsa: (hesitates, but still enraged) <u>Arrrrrgggh!!</u>
Get out of my way or I'll kill you, too. Your foolish superstitions don't frighten me. I don't care about the "results of my activities in this life or the next!" Ha! I'll do as I please!

Vasudeva: Dear brother-in-law, consider this - you are in no immediate danger from Devaki. You are expecting some danger in the future because you heard a prophetic voice from he sky. The danger is not from your sister, but from the sons of your sister. And they are not even present! And who knows, there may or may not be any sons in the future. Look, you are safe for the present. Devaki presents no threat to you, and if there are sons born to us, I swear I will present them to you, personally, to do with as you wish!

Kamsa: All right, Vasudeva, all right. In spite of my

deepest instincts, my gut feelings, which tell me to kill her immediately, I will take your proposal at your word of honor. Despite our differences, I know that your promise is as good as gold. So, all right, we will wait and see what destiny brings.

Scene Four - Vasudeva's Palace

Narrator: After due course of time, Vasudeva and Devaki gave birth to their first child.

Devaki: Our little son is so precious! He is a great source of delight for me. Do you not love him. too?

Vasudeva: Yes, of course. He is very dear to me.

Devaki: Then, why must you must we . Keep that accursed promise to Kamsa?

Vasudeva: Devaki, we've been through this a thousand times! You know that I could never break a promise which I have made!

Devaki: I'm sorry, it's just that I've gotten so attached to
him. I suppose it must be as you say. All right, do as you must.
(She gives Vasudeva the child and Vasudeva leaves.)

Devaki: (crying) The scriptures teach that there is nothing painful for saintly persons but I am not a saint. I'm just a sentimental woman. It is my greater desire to give up anything and everything unfavorable to the service of the Supreme Lord. But for a woman to give up her first-born child is so difficult

Vasudeva: (returning) Lord Visnu has shown us His mercy! Look, Kamsa has let us keep our first-born son! He said that he is only concerned with the eighth child.

Devaki: Oh, Vasudeva, it is too good to be true!!

Vasudeva: Still, I do not trust him, because he is without self -control.

Scene Five - Kamsa's Palace

(Kamsa sits with an advisor, there is rich music, maybe a dancing girl.)

Advisor: I must tell you, Kamsa, that I think that you have been far too liberal with them. They pose an imminent threat to your life. Not now, perhaps, but in the future □

Kamsa: I don't want to hear about it any more, not know.

Advisor: Suppose they should escape your surveillance suddenly and disappear to hatch their plot in secret and strike in the dark!?

Kamsa: Ha! Plot in secret? You don't know Vasudeva, the son of Surasena! Devaki, do you see this gold? Vasudeva's word is as good as this gold. He will save me the trouble □

Guard: (enters) Sire, Vasudeva seeks an audience with you. Should I □?

Kamsa: (looks smugly at advisor, dismisses musicians and dancers) Send him in.

Vasudeva: (entering with his newborn son) Great Kamsa, Devaki has borne me a son and, as I promised, I have brought him to you to do with as you see fit.

Kamsa: (taking baby) I am pleased that you have been good to your word, Vasudeva. However, I don't see what danger this child holds for me. I see no reason to harm this child unnecessarily. The Voice said that the eighth child would pose a threat to me. Here, you may take this child back and go home.

Vasudeva: (stunned) I don't □ I □ I can't believe □

Kamsa: Really. Here, take him back.
(Kamsa hands Vasudeva the baby.)

Vasudeva: Oh, thank you, Great Lord! Dear brother-in-law, you

have acted very wisely and generously! Thank you!

(Vasudeva leaves with his son.)

Kamsa: He is a fool, but an honorable fool. I pity him.

Advisor: So, let us take the child away! Suppose the prophesy was misleading in order to put you off guard Perhaps these are the Killer's cohorts taking birth One day they will help him to destroy you. I suspect that you are fool in this matter!

Kamsa: Enough! I know what I am doing. I have nothing to fear from this child. When the eighth child is born, Vasudeva will bring him here and I will dispose of him. Am I not on of the most powerful War Princes in the world?? I can kill a baby, but why should I do it unnecessarily?

(Narada Muni enters.)

Narada: Kamsa, you are indeed a fool if you o not see the significance of the events going on around you. Are you aware that Nanda Maharaj and all the residents of Vrndavana have been preparing for some time for the appearance of Lord Visnu?

Kamsa: Visnu?

Narada: In person, yes. In the flesh. Furthermore, your father-in-law, King Surasena, his son, Vasudeva, and all their relatives, the Yadu dynasty, have been awaiting Vasudevaisnu's appearance in their own family. Many of the demigods have already taken birth in these families and also

Kamsa: Demigods!!

Narada: The demigods are already preparing the way. Be wary of friends and well-wishers from the Yadu dynasty.

Kamsa: Visnu?

Narrator: Yes, Kalenemi.

Kamsa: What??

Narrator: That was your name in a previous birth. You were a foe of Visnu and he vanquished you. Now, you have returned and now He is returning

Kamsa: Returning!? When? Where?
(Narada Muni leaves.) Narada?

Advisor: Demigods!

Kamsa: Visnu!

Advisor: I told you not to be so easy! I knew that it was not a good idea to let them keep heir child. Now, the demigods are in on it!

Kamsa: (suddenly angry) Be quiet! Let me think. Vasudeva, He could be anywhere, anyone of them. No, I won't be trapped like this!

Advisor: Demigods!

Kamsa: Shut up! We've beaten the demigods before. I have to
safeguard my life, by any means. **(calls)** Guard! Go after Vasudeva, arrest him and the child and Devaki. Secure them in my prison.
(Guard leaves) I will also arrest my father, Krsnaing Ugrasena - he would be sure to protest. **(to Advisor)** See that it is done. And with my father out of the way, I shall be the King of the Yadu and the Bhoja and Andraka dynasties. You will also see to it that Vasudeva's father, Surasena, is imprisoned. I shall proclaim my rulership over his lands as well. Then, there will be none who dares to oppose me and we may deal with this menace.
(Advisor leaves.)
I cannot bring myself to kill my sister. I cannot bring myself to kill my dear sister. I cannot risk the damage of my reputation, but her children will never see the light of day. I shall personally see to it that none of them represent a threat to me.
(Kamsa exits.)

Scene Six - Vasudeva's Palace

(There is a loud knocking on the door. Devaki and Vasudeva are with their child. Kamsa and his guards burst in.)

Kamsa: (to guard) Take the baby away.
(The guard moves forward and Vasudeva surrenders the child.)

Vasudeva: (to Devaki) It is as I feared.

Devaki: Kamsa, what are you doing!:? You said that you were not in danger from this child!

Kamsa: The sage Narada Muni came to my court and he revealed that the demigods are taking birth around me to assist in overthrowing me. I know now that any child of yours may be my enemy.

Vasudeva: Kamsa, think of your reputation! Is it not the duty of the king to protect his citizens?

Kamsa: I can do anything I please! It is not the first time in history that such precautions have been taking to secure a kingdom, nor will it be the last. **(to guards)** Arrest them and keep them under guard in my dungeon. Then, imprison my father, Ugrasena. I will be the sole power of authority in this land. It is time for me to overthrow the kings of all he surrounding lands. I will not tolerate any other authority in all the lands as far as my armies can journey in any direction!!

Scene Seven - Kamsa's Dungeon

Narrator: Within the walls of Kamsa's prison, shackled in iron chains, Vasudeva and Devaki gave birth to a male child, year after year.

Vasudeva: (looking out window) Kamsa is a madman! With the help of all his demoniac friends, all our family members are being persecuted and forced to subjugate themselves to his will. I wish that there was something I could do to alleviate this horrible political situation!

Devaki: And what to speak of our personal dilemma! I just have to be confident in our plan to conceive our children as quickly as possible in order to hasten the birth of the One who is to bring about Kamsa's death. But, every birth fills me with such conflicting emotions - pleasure to be part of the Lord's plan and lamentation that it must continue in this way.

Vasudeva: We must remain strong and dedicated to our mission.

(Celestial Music, colored lights)

Devaki: Vasudeva, what is happening. You are becoming so effulgent it's difficult to look at you you're glowing like the sun!

Narrator: Thus the eternal form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead was transferred from the mind of Vasudeva to the mind of Devaki, exactly as the setting sun's rays are transferred to the full moon rising in the East.

Vasudeva: The time has come! You are now carrying the Supreme Lord within your womb.

(Glorious music)

Scene Eight - Kamsa's Throneroom

Narrator: So, Devaki was kept within the prison walls of Kamsa's palace, but her increasing troubled him:

Kamsa: Devaki has never looked so beautiful so brilliant. The Supreme Lord must be within her womb. He is the one who will cause my demise. What can I do to save myself? Devaki is a woman, she is my sister and moreover, she is now pregnant. If I kill Devaki, my reputation, opulence and duration of life will still be vanquished. A person who is very cruel is to be regarded as dead, even while living, and after his death, everyone condemns him. When he leaves his body he is cast down into the darkest regions of hell. No, I cannot kill my sister. But, I shall remain determined to kill my sworn enemy before He kills me. For now, I will wait until He is born, and then I will do the needful.

Scene Nine - Kamsa's Prison

(Glorious Music)

Narrator: Lord Brahma, accompanied by great sages and demigods invisibly approached the rooms of Devaki. With great joy, they all joined in offering their respectful prayers to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

(Bhajan)

When the time was mature for the appearance of the Lord, the constellations became very auspicious. At that time, in all directions there were signs of good fortune. The rivers were full and flowing and the lakes were beautifully decorated with lotus flowers. The forests were peaceful and the birds and peacocks began to dance. Just on the point of Lord Krsna's appearance, loud vibrations in the sky proclaimed the appearance of the Supreme Lord. Then, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Visnu, who is situated in everyone's heart, appeared from the heart of Devaki like the full moon rising in the East.

(Visnu may be projected, shadowed or portrayed by an actor.)

Devaki: My dear Lord, You are the origin of the entire comic manifestation. Everything emanates from You, in. Indeed, You are the Cause of All Causes and the Source of all Transcendental Knowledge. Let me offer my full surrender unto You. Dear Lord, because You dispell all the fear of Your devotees, I request You to give us protection from the terrible actions of Kamsa. This transcendental four-armed form is unnatural for this world. Please withdraw this form and become like a natural human child so that I may try to hide you somewhere.

Visnu: My dear Mother, your heart is always pure and you are always thinking of Me within your heart. Once, many lifetimes ago, I offered you anything you desired and you wished to have Me as your son. My dear parents, you have been my mother and father for millenium after millenium. You have reared Me many times as your child with great love and affection. I am very pleased and obliged to you, and I promise that after this life you will go back to my eternal abode. Vasudeva, I know that you are very concerned for Me and afraid of Kamsa, therefore, I order you to take me

immediately to Gokula and replace me with the daughter that has been born to Yasoda.

(Visnu disappears. Vasudeva's shackles fall off.)

Vasudeva: I must take this child away from here.

Devaki: But how!? Isn't that dangerous? There's a terrible storm outside. The Baby will catch cold

Vasudeva: The Lord will arrange for everything. I will take our Son to the home of our friends, Nanda Maharaj and Yasoda-devi. It is just on the other side of the Yamuna River but He will be safe there.

Devaki: Look! The doorkeepers are fast asleep!

Vasudeva: (picks up baby) The doors are opening farewell I'll return soon.

Narrator: Because of the influence of the Supreme Lord, when Vasudeva attempted to take Baby Krsna from the prison, all the residents of Kamsa's palace were overwhelmed with deep sleep and the chains fell off the iron doors of the palace. The night was very dark but Vasudeva could see everything as if it was day by the brilliant effulgence of the Child. Lord Sesa took the shape of a serpent and spread His hood over the head of Vasudeva to protect Them from the rainfall. The Yamuna River parted to allow Them to cross.

On the other side, Vasudeva went to the home of Nanda Maharaj and exchanged the baby Boy for the baby girl who had just been born of Yasoda. Then, They returned to the prison of Kamsa and the doors closed behind them.

Exhausted by the labor of childbirth, Yasoda could not remember if she had given birth to a male of female child. The next day, it was declared that a male child was born of Yasoda and Nanda Maharaj and there was a great celebration in the village of Vrindavan. Vasudev, being imprisoned, meditated upon giving thousands of cows to the brahmanas in honor of the birth of His son. In Vrindavan, there was much singing, dancing and feasting - a festival now celebrated annually, all over the world as Krsna Janmastami.

(Kirtan)